

For Immediate Release:

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Artobiography Breaks New Literary Ground

Thousands of books are published every year, but it's not very often that someone creates a new genre of literature. Boulder artist and author Tina Collen, however, has indeed broken new literary ground with her unique memoir *Storm of the i: An Artobiography*.

The book is a hybrid of art and narrative that communicates on many levels. The synthesis is riveting. In it Collen often lets her art tell the story—a successful artist who, at the height of her career (during an exhibition in Paris) confronts a lifetime of rage and rejection from her father. What follows is a fascinating and intimate self-portrait-mystery. At the time she wrote the book, her father hadn't spoken to her in 15 years and she never knew why.



Sweet Sixteen, dressed as a flapper for a "Roaring 20's party"

My father's many business trips to Asia often included a stop-over in California to visit old neighbors who had moved from Brooklyn.

He encouraged their son to come visit the family when heading east to go to law school.

In my father's wallet he carried this provocative picture of me. It's the photo that gave my husband-to-be an ulterior motive in coming to my sister's 20th birthday party.

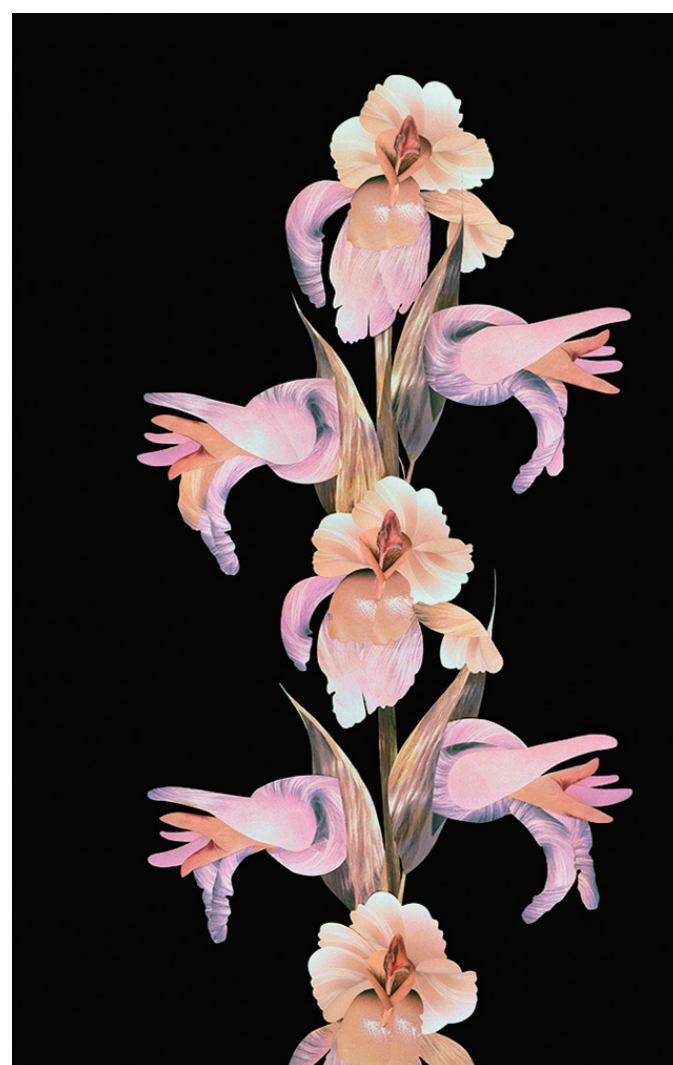
Once it became clear that this charismatic young man had caught my attention, my father began to make things difficult. Very difficult.

Collen's heartbreaking exploration is filled with gripping episodes that are poignant, wise and humorous. The book is overflowing with memorabilia, drawings, photographs, a gorgeous 5-panel painting



that folds out of the book, a mildly scandalous lift-up flap and even a popup that hands the reader a fortune cookie with a message inside. This highly unusual creation inspires us to think about the talents, the humor and the memories that we all possess.

Among Collen's most exciting and distinctive works are her *Fleurotica collages*. Here's how *New York Times* best-selling author Sara Davidson describes them:



Hooded Ladies Tresses

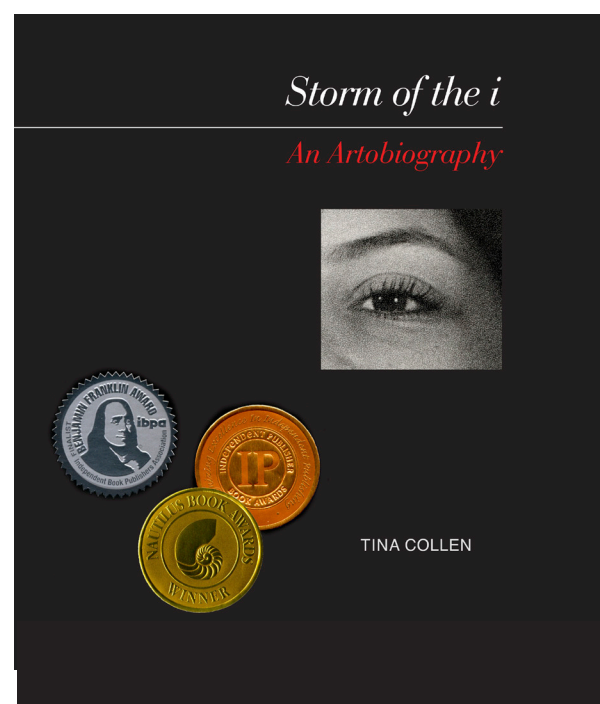
"BOTANATOMICALLY CORRECT"
—*Fleurotica* collector, Eric Marus

"At first glance, I thought I was looking at lush paintings of wildflowers, but on closer examination, I found myself in the world of the Kama Sutra. Based on the idea that flowers are simply sex organs, Collen created her wildflowers from risqué magazine scraps. She took something forbidden and transformed it into something witty, beautiful and acceptable. In her memoir, Storm of the i, she takes a heartbreaking story and transforms it into something witty, beautiful—and unforgettable."

*Why was her father so angry at her from the time she was a child?
Why did he try to alienate her from the rest of the family?*

Searching for answers, Collen uncovers a bombshell that shatters a core belief she's held all her life.

***Storm of the i: An Artobiography* by Tina Collen**



Nautilus Book Award 2011 Gold Medal Winner

Previous Award winners include the Dalai Lama, Deepak Chopra, Eckhart Tolle, Andrew Weil, Barbara Kingsolver, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. among others.

2011 "Book of the Year," Foreword Magazine

Benjamin Franklin Silver Medal Winner

List \$29.95 Perfect bound paperback 322 pages

Art Review Press 1st edition ISBN-10: 0982524102

ISBN-13: 978-0982524107

For more information visit www.TinaCollen.com

“Tina Collen has created a rare masterpiece of memoir brimming with wit, wisdom and beauty. Using the languages of both word and image her vibrant inner journey is transmitted on dual wavelengths. The resulting synthesis is bold, authentic, fanciful, and free ... a reminder of the untamed world of possibility that lies within every human heart. This book is a jewel.”

—Joan Borysenko, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School
New York Times best-selling author



“Powerful. This is a poignant and gripping Rorschach test of a book. Smart, funny and deep, it is filled with wonderful art and the wisdom of a truly original mind.”

—Joan Holt, Editor-in-Chief, Metropolitan Museum of Art Magazine, 1979-2005

“Artists and writers are often the ones forging the path for the rest of us. It’s inspirational to see Collen set down her brush and pick up a pen and write her life with equal mastery. As the baby boomers enter their most reflective decades, watch for Artobiography to become an emerging trend.”

—Patricia Aburdene, author of Megatrends 2010,
Co-author Megatrends, #1 on the a New York Times bestseller list for 2 years

“Storm of the i is extraordinary—it’s authentic, original, beautiful and brave. I’ve been in the book business for thirty years and have seen a lot of books, but I’ve never seen anything like this book.”

—David Bolduc,
Owner, Boulder Bookstore

“Brilliant and touching. It brought tears to my eyes. I was totally engrossed from the first moment I started reading to the very last period. I followed every word like it was a psychological thriller and experienced her epiphany as if it were my own.”

—Nancy Spanier, Artistic Director,
Performance Inventions, Sireuil, France

“Not only exquisite—but intensely engaging, inspiring and very funny.”

—Amory Lovins,
Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World, 2009

“An exuberant and engaging exploration, a collection of touching and humorous personal stories that are woven seamlessly together. Though the author obviously delights in tweaking the nose of propriety, her message is authentic. Using little psychological or spiritual jargon, it has instead the power of an ordinary voice speaking truth.”

—Evi Bassoff, psychologist,
Author of Cherishing Our Daughters and Mothering Ourselves

“Marvelous ... warm, clever, lively and great to look at. It’s packed with fascinating insights. I started putting little yellow Post-its on all the things I really liked. There were so many I ran out.”

—Ted Conover,
Pulitzer Prize finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award winner

“An emotional tour de force—hard to believe this is her first book. It’s a 10 in creativity, art, and revelation. Now that the inner storm has been channeled, I see Artobiography workshops on the horizon.”

—Dr. Judith Briles, award-winning best-selling author

“The most unusual thing about this remarkable memoir is that it’s not about the author—it’s about the reader.”

—Marilyn Van Derbur, Miss America 1958
Award-winning author and motivational speaker

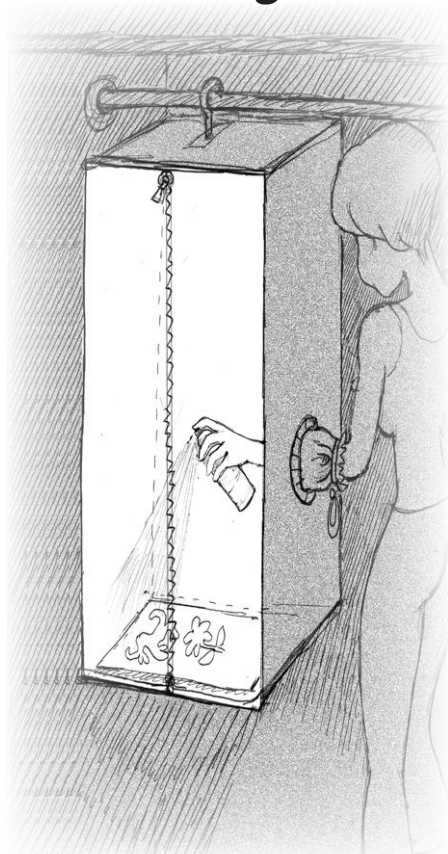
“Behind creativity there is often a struggle trying to work its way out and this is the story of that struggle. Unlike artists who feed their pain, in Storm of the i, Tina Collen uses her talent to understand and ameliorate it. Along the way, she creates a genre that is overflowing with quirky inventiveness—foldout paintings and photographs, cutouts and even an omniscient pop-up. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.”

—Lena Torslow Hansen, Museum Art Books

“A reminder—vivid and visual— that the parent-child bond is the bedrock on which lives are built.”

—Stewart Oksenhorn, Aspen Times

Creating Fleurotica: a home spun solution



After many hours of cutting and arranging the magazine sections for the collages, I would use a can of spray mount to adhere the pieces to the black background. Unfortunately, the glue made a fine spray filling the air and settling on every surface (my lungs included), so I converted a zippered garment bag into a handy closet spray chamber.